

REMARKS

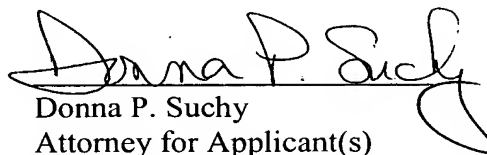
The applicants thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 1-8 and 10-13 and the indication that claims 9, 16-22, 25 and 26 would be allowable if rewritten to include the limitations discussed or if they depend from allowable independent claims.

Claims 9 and 22 have been amended as requested. Claims 16 and 22 have not been cancelled since the amendments made in this response now render these claims allowable since they now depend from allowable claims.

Claims 14, 23 and 24 were rejected as being anticipated by Morganti 6,295,436 but Morganti does not have an air passage slot between the skive plate and the base plate as shown in FIG. 4 as #40. Morganti only has a gap between the roller and the terminal edge. Thus independent claim 14 is allowable, as are all claims depending from it (claims 15-26).

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested. A prompt and favorable action by the Examiner is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner believe any remaining issues may be resolved via a telephone interview, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' representative at the number below to discuss such issues.

Respectfully submitted,



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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.

Amendments to the Drawings:

FIGs. 1-4 have been corrected based on the Examiner's recommendation and some minor changes made as indicated. These changes include the line from "50" in FIG. 1, the line to "22" in FIG. 4, the lines in FIGs. 1 and 3, and FIGs. 2 and 4 which the Applicants now believe clearly show the "distance between the terminal edge and the base plate decrease or the distance from said skive plate central portion", claimed in claim 1, and "the gap" claimed in claim 9.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are attached as well as red-lined versions that make clear that these changes do not add any new material but only have been made to make the lines and numbers easier to see. Attached are replacement sheets and annotated sheets showing the changes.

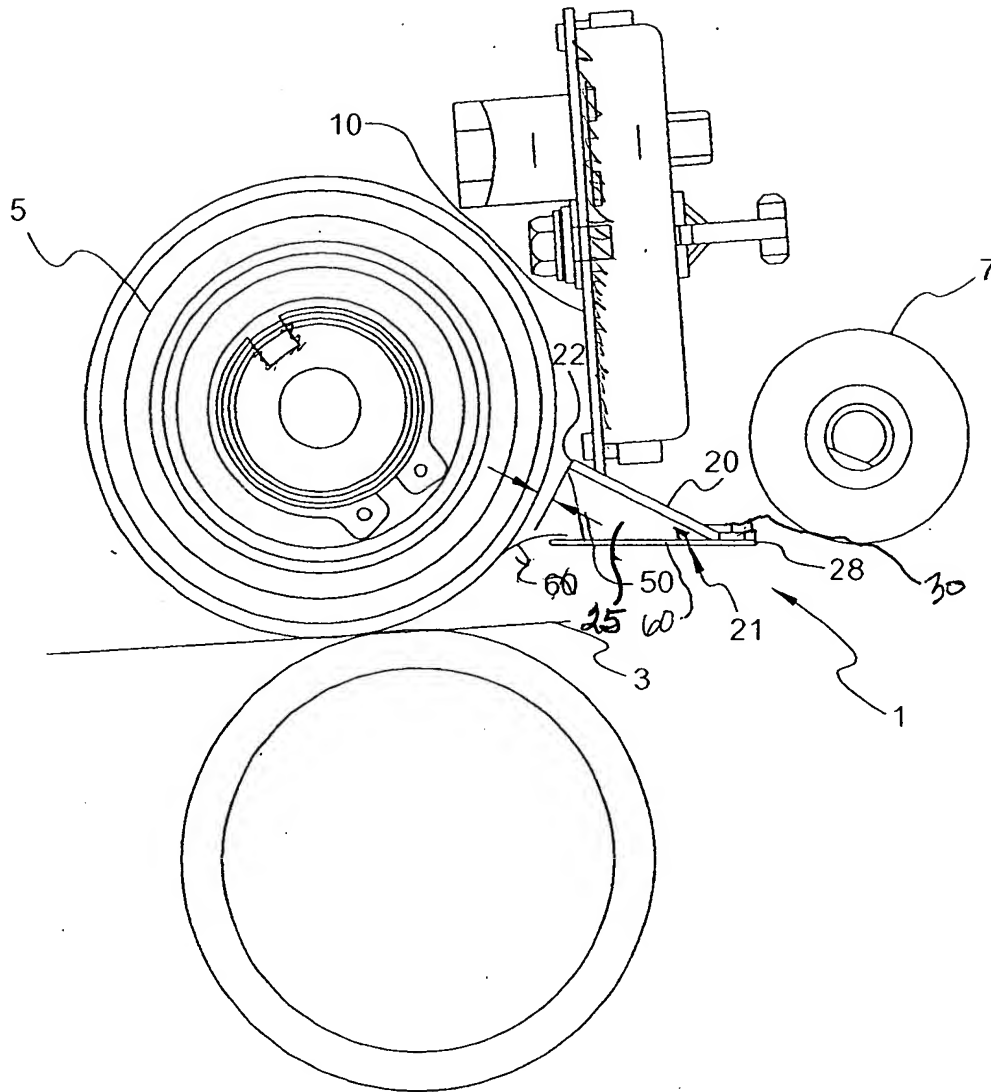


FIG. 1

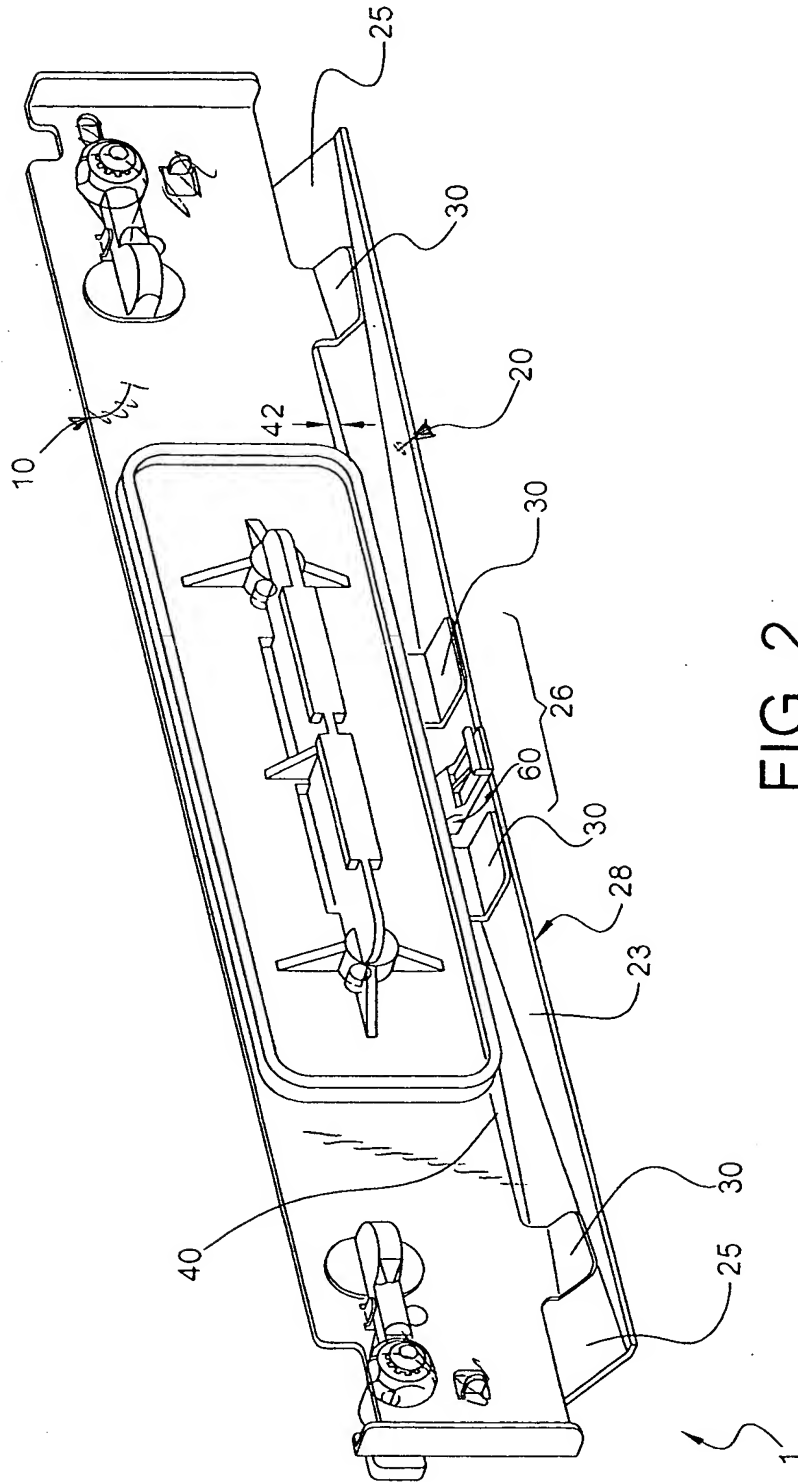


FIG. 2

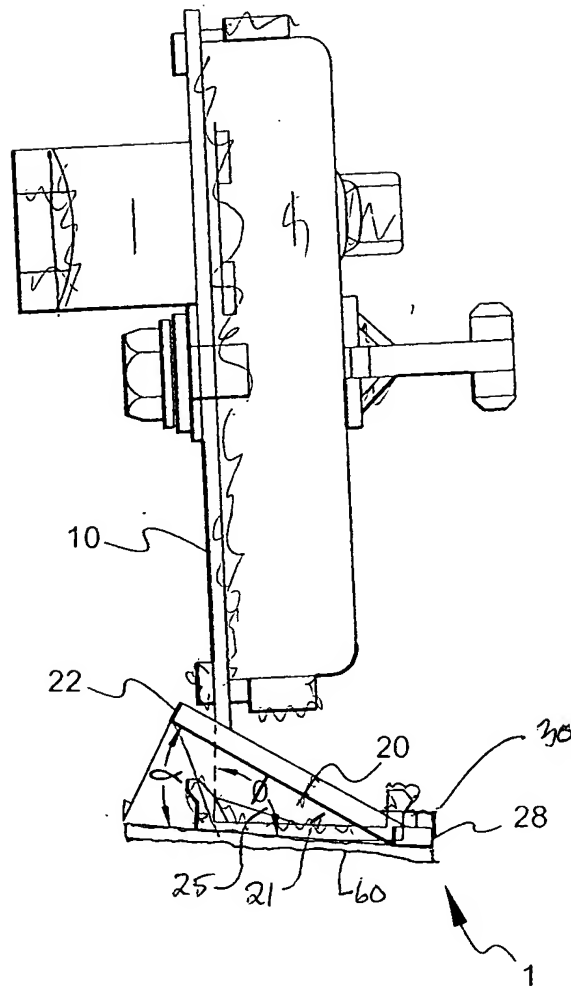


FIG. 3

